



## The “Faces” of Aruba are on display at the Instituto di Cultura

A new exposition and the first one-man show of portrait artist Walter William Wever opened on Monday evening, March 12 at the Instituto di Cultura in Oranjestad. Located next to the San Francisco Church across from the post office, the collection now on view in the Institute’s chapel offers an opportunity for viewers to meet Aruba’s better known personalities, both living and dead.

Walter Wever, born in 1972, revealed that he had always been interested in art, but began doing charcoal portraits in 1994, a direction of creativity that captured and held his attention ever since. This current collection of portraits, titled “Nos Caranan” (“Our Faces”) focus on the visages of well-known Aruban artists, musicians, politicians and athletes, plus historical figures. One wall is devoted to the island’s World War II hero, Boy Ecury, famed musician and co-author of Aruba’s National Anthem, Rufo Wever, and “El Liberatador,” Gilberto “Betico” Croes.

Walter has not only turned his exceptional talent to immortalizing the “high and mighty,” but also Aruba’s special athletes, such as Mark Gonzalez and Reynold Wernet. Members of Parliament, captains of industry, and Aruba’s “Mama y Tata di Cultura,” (Mother and Father of Culture) Padu Lampe (the other co-author of the National Anthem) and Senora Bernadina Grovel have also been interpreted in Walter’s unique style.

The opening of this new exposition was accompanied by words of praise from Frank Croes, director of the Instituto di Cultura, and Tino Ruiz, director of the Office of Intellectual Property, who presented Walter with a certification of copyright of all his works. Mark Gonzalez, aside from being a “special athlete,” is also a talented singer, and entertained the gathering, along with an exciting visual presentation incorporating Walter’s works with photos of Aruba, which was prepared by John Freddy Montoya.

Additionally on display with his charcoal portraits, is Walter’s “Wood Art,” consisting of finely detailed model boats that show remarkable craftsmanship. In particular, his catamaran with a sail made from photos of his beloved family was not only evidence of his artistry, but also the closeness he feels with them, which was also obvious in their presence and pride at his opening.

The premiere exposition of Walter William Wever will continue in the evenings from 6:00 until 9:00 pm; ending March 23, and then from there go on display at the Biblioteca Nacional in Oranjestad and afterwards to Aruba’s Archive Museum. It is not only a window on this young man’s artistry, but a very interesting insight into Aruba’s history and people, and well worth a visit.